

ABSTRACT

A process is provided for using oligonucleotide to which a detectable moiety is attached post-synthesis. A metal-containing fluorescent compound affords real-time detection of nucleic acid elongation, amplification, or hybridization. The process is especially advantageous since a
5 detectable moiety is readily attached to an existing oligonucleotide at an internal nucleotide, rather than being limited to attachment at a 3' or 5' terminus.